

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7458

PASS S/IL AND LABOR DEPARTMENT FOR SEGALL AND PERSONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO HIGHLY UNLIKELY

REF: GENEVA 7917

1. LABATT HAD CONVERSATION WITH ENRIQUE LEON, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO), DURING WHICH ILO WAS DISCUSSED. LEON, WHO IS FORMER SPANISH LABOR ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN SPANISH ILO MATTERS SINCE SSO PROVIDES BOTH SPANISH WORKER AND EMPLOYER DELEGATES TO ILO, AND SINCE HE IS MEMBER OF INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SSO, LABOR MINISTRY, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH ESTABLISHED SPANISH ILO POLICY.

2. LABATT SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMOR GOS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF ALSO WITHDRAWING FROM ILO IN WAKE OF POSSIBLE U.S. NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. LEON REACTED WITH SURPRISE, STATED THIS POSSIBILITY HAS NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED IN SPANISH INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WHICH SETS ILO POLICY. HE COULD NOT FORESEE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH SPAIN WOULD WITHDRAW FROM ILO. BARRING THE UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY OF WHOLESALE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE ADDED GOS RECOGNIZES ADVANTAGE

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CONTINUED GOS AND SSO PARTICIPATION IN ILO, DESPITE CRITICISM

TO WHICH THEY ARE SUBJECTED IN THAT BODY. LEON SAID SPANISH
WITHDRAWAL IN THE WAKE OF POSSIBLE U.S. WITHDRAWAL WAS
PARTICULARLY UNTHINKABLE, INASMUCH AS GOS ALREADY IS OFTEN
ACCUSED IN SOME INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES AS BEING SUBSERVIENT
TO U.S.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING BY LEON'S COMMENTS, THE SUGGESTION
OF SPANISH MISSION OFFICER IN GENEVA WAS LIKELY TO BE HIS
OWN IDEA. THE POSITION OF THE SSO, WHICH IS INTERNATIONAL
PARIAH SHUNNED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION BODIES, WOULD
APPEAR TO RENDER SPANISH ILO WITHDRAWAL EXTREMELY UNLIKELY.

ILO IS TOO ADVANTAGEOUS TO SSO AND GOS AS ONLY INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATION IN WHICH SSO IS ABLE PARTICIPATE. WITHDRAWAL
MIGHT ALSO ENABLE CLANDESTINE SPANISH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH
AS COMMUNIST-MANIPULATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS AND SOCIALIST
UGT WHO ALREADY HAVE THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES AT ILO
ON WFTU AND ICFTU OBSERVER DELEGATIONS, TO RECEIVE
RECOGNITION AS SPANISH WORKER DELEGATION IN PLACE OF THE
SSO.

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